

LOCAL STORMS DURING DECEMBER.

The following notes of severe storms have been extracted from the report of the section director, Vicksburg, Miss.:

On December 17, 1915, a series of severe local storms or tornadoes passed over parts of Clark, Lauderdale, and Kemper Counties. The storms appeared at all points between 4 and 5 a. m. and were accompanied by inky black clouds of the usual pendant formation, frequent electrical discharges, very high wind velocities, and heavy rains followed. The paths of the storms ranged from 50 to 800 yards in width. There were 6 deaths, about 75 persons were injured, and property loss estimated at \$200,000. Every building in the vicinity of Preston, Kemper County, was demolished.

THE TORNADO OF DECEMBER 17, 1915, IN EASTERN MISSISSIPPI.

By DON MCNEAL, Assistant Observer.

[Dated: Weather Bureau, Meridian, Miss., Jan. 7, 1916.]

In concurrence with the passing of a cyclonic area over Mississippi during the night of December 16 and the early morning of the 17th a severe local storm was experienced over Clark, Lauderdale, and Kemper Counties in eastern Mississippi. The depression, appearing over northeastern Mississippi and central Tennessee, as based on the 8 a. m. reports of December 17, appeared to be a secondary center of the storm then moving eastward over the Great Lakes, and served to outline a well-defined and characteristic V-shaped depression over the southern States.

Thunder was heard at the Meridian station during the early morning, but no unusual phenomena were observed. The storm first appeared in violence as a tornado near Shubuta, in the southern portion of Clark County. From here it moved north and northeastward in a zigzag and erratic manner, and with decreasing violence as it approached the more uneven topography of Lauderdale County. It appeared to have spent itself at this point, but later reappeared with extreme violence near Daleville, in the northern portion of the county. It then continued in intensity, and again moved northeastward in a broken and uneven course across the swampy and heavily forested areas of that section, leaving destruction in its wake throughout a path ranging in width from 50 to 800 yards. It was last observed in the vicinity of Geiger, Ala., which place marks the end of the path of serious damage.

This tornado appeared between 4 and 5 a. m. at all places throughout its course, so that observations of the meteorological elements were incomplete and lacking in detail. All observers agree, however, that the clouds were inky black; that there were frequent electrical discharges which, in some instances, were observed as converging to a common center; that the disturbance passed at an extreme velocity, and that the usual pendant-formed cloud was present. No hail was reported from any point along the path of the storm, but in every case heavy rains followed immediately as the high winds subsided.

Throughout its path, buildings were unroofed or completely demolished, and heavy timber was uprooted and strewn about in a heterogeneous manner with other debris. At Preston, practically the entire town was

destroyed, and many persons were injured, although no deaths are reported. Five miles east of Scooba, where the storm seems to have developed its greatest violence, many peculiar incidents are related in connection with it. Here limbs are said to have been torn from one side of pine trees, while on the other side the limbs and branches were left intact; one side of the roof of a barn was torn completely off, while the other side remained undamaged; one oak tree 4 feet in diameter was uprooted and carried 16 feet and then left resting with the top pointing toward the southwest. Another oak tree 30 inches in diameter was severely twisted at a point 4 feet above the ground and left standing in this condition. One instance is related where it is said that a negro woman was picked from her bed and dashed to death, while a 4-month-old child lying by her side remained unhurt. In another house, where all windows and doors were blown out, a quart of canned fruit, in a glass container, was lifted from the mantelpiece and deposited on the floor undamaged. A negro child was said to have been carried a distance of 300 feet by the wind and lodged in a tree, where it was found, after the storm had passed, in a dying condition.

Authentic reports place the number of deaths resulting from this storm at 6—all negroes—while the number of persons injured will probably reach 75. Property loss, including damage to timber, is estimated at \$200,000.

Maximum wind velocities, December, 1915.

Station.	Date.	Velocity.	Direction.	Station.	Date.	Velocity.	Direction.
		<i>Mis./hr.</i>				<i>Mis./hr.</i>	
Block Island, R. I.	10	34	nw.	Norfolk, Va.	18	53	sw.
Do.	13	63	ne.	Do.	25	53	w.
Do.	14	60	w.	Do.	26	50	w.
Do.	18	56	nw.	Do.	29	53	sw.
Do.	20	86	w.	North Head, Wash.	2	52	se.
Do.	29	67	ne.	Do.	4	72	se.
Boston, Mass.	13	52	ne.	Do.	5	70	s.
Buffalo, N. Y.	19	52	w.	Do.	7	72	se.
Do.	23	54	w.	Do.	8	65	se.
Do.	24	50	w.	Do.	19	78	se.
Do.	25	54	w.	Do.	20	76	s.
Charlotte, N. C.	25	50	sw.	Do.	21	63	s.
Do.	29	58	sw.	Do.	24	54	s.
Chattanooga, Tenn.	29	59	sw.	Do.	27	54	s.
Cheyenne, Wyo.	14	58	w.	Do.	28	79	nw.
Do.	20	70	w.	Do.	28	70	sw.
Do.	21	66	w.	Pensacola, Fla.	3	66	s.
Do.	22	72	w.	Point Reyes Light, Cal.	9	52	nw.
Do.	25	56	w.	Do.	12	65	s.
Columbus, Ohio.	23	50	w.	Do.	13	67	s.
Eastport, Me.	14	63	ne.	Do.	14	52	nw.
El Paso, Tex.	26	51	w.	Do.	25	66	nw.
Do.	31	54	sw.	Do.	28	68	nw.
Erie, Pa.	17	52	se.	Do.	28	54	nw.
Fort Worth, Tex.	24	50	nw.	Portland, Me.	26	52	w.
Hartford, Conn.	26	58	nw.	Providence, R. I.	14	52	w.
Hatteras, N. C.	18	52	sw.	Do.	15	52	w.
Do.	25	52	sw.	Do.	18	50	w.
Do.	26	66	w.	Do.	26	82	nw.
Key West, Fla.	20	56	n.	Richmond, Va.	25	50	sw.
Lexington, Ky.	29	56	sw.	Sand Key, Fla.	11	50	se.
Mt. Tamalpais, Cal.	3	38	sw.	Do.	20	66	nw.
Do.	4	37	nw.	Sandy Hook, N. J.	9	52	nw.
Do.	8	50	nw.	Do.	10	55	nw.
Do.	9	62	nw.	Do.	13	61	nw.
Do.	13	54	sw.	Do.	14	55	w.
Do.	25	54	nw.	Do.	18	50	nw.
Do.	26	57	n.	Do.	26	76	w.
Do.	28	67	nw.	Do.	29	59	no.
Do.	29	53	nw.	Savannah, Ga.	25	52	sw.
Mobile, Ala.	28	50	sw.	Seattle, Wash.	19	57	sw.
Nantucket, Mass.	13	72	e.	Do.	21	52	sw.
Do.	14	72	sw.	Tatoosh Island, Wash.	4	52	s.
Do.	26	72	sw.	Do.	5	68	s.
Do.	29	60	ne.	Do.	7	64	s.
Nashville, Tenn.	29	53	sw.	Do.	8	61	s.
New Haven, Conn.	20	61	nw.	Do.	19	69	sw.
New York, N. Y.	9	54	nw.	Do.	20	74	s.
Do.	10	64	nw.	Do.	21	60	sw.
Do.	13	66	n.	Do.	27	60	s.
Do.	14	64	nw.	Do.	28	56	w.
Do.	18	64	nw.	Trenton, N. J.	26	64	s.
Do.	25	62	s.	Wichita, Kans.	10	52	n.
Do.	26	90	nw.				